

Unit 2 - Sustaining Ecosystems

What is an ecosystem?

environment
rainforest
balance
deserts
adapt
living stuff - plants
 animals
 ducks
 habitat
 marsh
 forest
 photosynthesis
 & respiration

Mar 12-10:09 AM

1.1- The Silence of the Frogs

- 30% of N. American frogs and toads are in trouble.
- amphibians have been around for 400 million years.
- they can live through drought, floods and winters.
- they are found in water ecosystems.
- they are exposed to land and water and the hazards of each.
- they are parts of 2 different food chains, one as frogs and one as tadpoles
- as frogs they are **carnivores** and as tadpoles they eat algae (plants) which makes them **herbivores**.

Oct 12-1:11 PM

- animals that eat both plants and other animals are called **omnivores**.
- when frogs disappear, insect pops. increase which can cause an increase in malaria (spread by mosquitos)
- tadpoles eat algae and **detritus** (waste and dead remains).
- **decomposers** break down detritus and are important recyclers in food chains.

Oct 17-1:52 PM

Why are frogs disappearing?

Loss of habitat

- frogs need wetlands, ponds and lakes with clean water to breed and lay eggs and forests or fields near for insects
- they need a safe path between land and water
- humans drain wetlands and cut trees and build roads between ponds and woods

Oct 17-1:58 PM

Air and Water Quality

- frogs have thin skin and some of their breathing is done through it
- pollutants like acid rain can pass through it
- acid rain also affects reproduction of frogs by killing eggs and deforming limbs

Oct 18-1:42 PM

Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation

- UV radiation penetrates the thin skin and can damage cells
- There is more UV radiation now because the protective ozone layer around the Earth is weakened by human made chemicals (called CFCs)

Oct 18-1:46 PM

Climate Change

- humans are causing the climate to warm up by burning fossil fuels
- this can lead to droughts and wetlands drying up

Oct 18-1:49 PM